



**LYNFIELD
COLLEGE**

NEWSLINK

NEWSLETTER 14 | 11 SEPTEMBER 2026

From Tumuaki Cath Knell

He aha te mea nui o te ao

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

What is the most important thing in the world?

It is the people, it is the people, it is the people.

Kia ora koutou

Assessment Week

I have been having some really insightful conversations with students after their assessments this week. It has been so reassuring to hear how seriously they are taking these exams. For those making the most of the derived grade opportunities, being able to reflect on what they need to do before their externals has been invaluable.

Managing the large numbers of students sitting assessments in any one session is a considerable feat. We thank the staff who have provided extra support and the students for listening carefully and following the instructions given by the exam supervisors. Thanks also to our Year 9-11 students for their demonstration of manaakitanga when moving between classes. Those sitting their exams have appreciated not being disturbed while focused on making the best use of the time available to them.

One more week of assessments to go!

Punctuality

Thank you for your support in helping to get our students to class, and their exams, on time. There has been a marked improvement in punctuality. Though, as always, there is room for further improvements to be made.

Illness

Like most schools in New Zealand, we have experienced increased levels of illness of students and staff as a result of the cold and flu viruses currently circulating. Seeing the long queues waiting for the opening of the local Medical Centres in the morning indicates that there is still considerable illness out in the community. Students who are questioning whether they are well enough to return to school can phone the School Nurse for advice.

Teacher Only Day and Blessing of the PAC and Dance Studio

Despite the Arts and Health & PE curricula not being released this week as scheduled we will proceed with our already rescheduled **Teacher Only Day** on **Monday 21 September**. The focus will be on preparing for 2027 with all junior programmes needing to incorporate the curriculum changes.

We will start the day on a positive note with the blessing of the newly refurbished Performing Arts Centre and Dance Studio. It is great to have these spaces made watertight again. Staff and students are eagerly waiting to be able to return to these specialised teaching spaces. We are hoping to have classes timetabled in there again from the beginning of Term 4.

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COMING EVENTS

Mon 14 – Fri 18 September

Senior Assessment Week 2

MĀORI LANGUAGE WEEK

TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI

Monday 21 September

TEACHER ONLY DAY

Friday 25 September

TERM 3 ENDS

Monday 12 October

TERM 4 BEGINS

Monday 9 November

Enrolment Interviews Begin

Jobs at Lynfield College

We are currently on the lookout for a Uniform and Stationery Shop Manager to step into this role from next term. Details of the position and how to apply can be found below and under Jobs at Lynfield College on the school website.

Nga mihi nui

Cath Knell

Tumuaki | Principal

Lynfield College Uniform and Stationery Shop Manager

PERMANENT, TERM TIME ONLY | STARTING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Lynfield College is inviting applications for the position of Uniform and Stationery Shop Manager. The successful applicant will be responsible for the management and oversight of all shop functions and must be highly organised with an efficient and thorough approach to administration tasks. For more information please visit our website: jobs@lynfield.co.nz.

Alumni News

SHAUN HARDMAN – FROM LYNFIELD TO THE TREETOPS

It was a real pleasure to welcome back ex-student Shaun Hardman to the College this past week. Shaun started at Lynfield in 1999 and now runs his own successful Arborist business called Hardfell Limited.

After leaving Lynfield College, Shaun took a pathway that was far from traditional. He initially worked as an outdoor instructor, teaching activities such as rock climbing and abseiling. His passion for climbing, ropes and working outdoors eventually led him into arboriculture. Shaun has now spent more than 18 years in the industry, progressing from trainee arborist to experienced climbing arborist and, ultimately, business owner.

In 2015, Shaun founded Hardfell Ltd, which has grown from a one-person operation into an Auckland arboriculture business employing more than 10 staff across multiple crews. He is particularly proud of the opportunities Hardfell provides for staff, including apprentices and young arborists developing their skills and progressing into leadership roles.

For Shaun, no two days in the job are the same. He says Arboriculture combines physical work, problem-solving, climbing, machinery and teamwork, and can take workers into some spectacular parts of Auckland. He says: *"You'll see views that people will never see in their lifetimes"*.

The work can also be challenging, particularly when dealing with demanding weather conditions or storm response. Shaun mentioned that after Cyclone Gabrielle his team worked continuously for two weeks responding to emergency jobs. However, the satisfaction of completing a challenging job, working with a great team and seeing the results makes it worthwhile. One of the highlights of Shaun's career has been seeing his business win the Manufacturing & Trade category at the 2025 NorthWest Business Awards.

Looking back at his time at Lynfield, Shaun admits that traditional classroom learning was not always easy for him. He struggled with sitting still and concentrating, but found enjoyment in sport, practical activities and spending time with friends. He credits teachers like Ms Clark who supported him. His message to current students is simple: success does not have to follow one particular pathway.

"It's not the end of the world if you don't succeed at school, there are many good career pathways outside the traditional university route. If you enjoy being outdoors, working with your hands, solving problems or working as part of a team, a trade can develop into a career and potentially even your own business."



It was great to have Shaun back at school and we thank him for sharing a bit of his story with us. If you would like to know more about the work Shaun and his team do then check them out at their website <https://hardfell.co.nz/>



EVAN HUANG (2024)

Last week we received a lovely surprise visit from Evan, who is currently in New Zealand for his university holidays.

My name is Evan Huang. I graduated from Lynfield College in 2024 and just finished my first year at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech), a very prestigious and selective university in the United States. I'm currently studying Computer Science and Robotics, with a focus on AI. Caltech is full of brilliant students and professors, and I was fortunate enough to conduct research on AI for equation discovery at the University of Washington over the last few months. Caltech was a school that once felt impossibly distant, but thanks to the incredible support I received at Lynfield College, that dream became a reality. My five years at Lynfield were filled with opportunities to explore and grow, from Robotics Club and Science Fair to scholarship classes, leadership roles, and extracurricular activities. My experiences at Lynfield are what fuelled my interests today. I would like to thank all the staff at Lynfield for supporting me every step of the way. To current students: Nothing is out of reach. Go confidently in the direction of your dreams.



Senior Drama Class Productions in Week 10

In week 10 this term, two senior Drama Productions will take place. Year 13 Drama will be presenting a version of Henrik Ibsen's "A Doll's House" which is a Norwegian play by a male playwright who was unusually pro-feminist for 1879. It is about a woman who has been treated like a doll all her life until she takes an unforgivable action to save her husband's life. The performance will take place on Tuesday 22nd September 6.30pm. Venue: I Block rooms 2 and 3. Entry is free.

Year 12 Drama will be performing a collection of scenes all under the title "Relative Insanity". The scenes are all about family relationships often in conflict. Many are comical and the students have also added some improvised imagined scenes by the same characters as the scripted roles. It will be a fun night. The performance will take place on Thursday 24th September 6.30pm. Venue: I Block rooms 2 and 3. Entry is free.

Engagement and Progress Reports

Due to exams and assessments taking place in Weeks 8 and 9, Engagement and Progress Reports will be delayed until the end of Week 10. This is to allow teachers to complete marking exam papers and provide up to date academic progress information to parents and caregivers.

Outstanding Success at Science Fair

On Friday 28th August, Lynfield College proudly entered nine projects in the Science Fair held at Michael Park School, competing against more than 200 projects from schools across the region. We are delighted to celebrate an outstanding result, with four of our projects receiving awards.

An especially exciting achievement was the nomination of **Saira Unni for the prestigious Prime Minister's Science Prize**, valued at **\$50,000**. We are incredibly proud of Saira and all our Science Fair students for their hard work, curiosity and commitment to scientific inquiry. Congratulations! (The Prime Minister's Science Prize is announced in mid-November.)



- **Saira Unni (Y12) - University of Auckland prize winner and Prime Minister Space Prize for student Endeavor**
- **Ashna Garg (Y9) and Sana Aravind (Y9) - Special Prize and Second Place**
- **Noureen Fatima (Y10) - Third Place**
- **Aarush Duvvuri (Y11) - Special Prize and Highly Commended**



From Lynfield to Melbourne: Our Dance Crew Journey

Our trip to Melbourne was an amazing experience that we will always remember. We travelled together as the Lynfield College Indian Dance Crew to compete in the Australian High School Dance Competition, and we were incredibly proud to return home with **3rd Place and the Best Choreography Award**.

While the competition was the main reason for our trip, it became about so much more than just performing. We got to explore Melbourne together, share plenty of laughs, strengthen our friendships and create memories that will stay with us for years to come. From rehearsing and getting ready together to supporting and encouraging each other on competition day, every moment brought us closer as a team.

A huge thank you to Lynfield College, Mr Chopra and Ms Philip, as well as our parents, supporters and everyone who helped make this trip possible. We truly appreciate the time, effort and support that went into giving our team this incredible opportunity.

We are so grateful that we got to experience this journey together and proud of what we achieved representing Lynfield College in Melbourne. The trophies are something we are proud of, but the friendships, memories and experiences we brought home mean even more.

Lynfield College Indian Dance Crew



D'Café Heroes & Villains Giveaway

Week 7 brought some extra excitement to D'Café with our Heroes & Villains Giveaway! Every time a student purchased a drink, their name was entered into the draw for the chance to win the complete collection of Ooshies.

With our Heroes & Villains theme running throughout D'Café the giveaway was the perfect addition and certainly created plenty of excitement around the café!

Congratulations to Harsh Sindarv, who was our lucky winner! Harsh was thrilled with his prize and was especially excited to gift the full collection to his younger brother.

A huge congratulations, Harsh — we hope your brother enjoys his superhero collection!



Beat the Bell: Why Every Minute Counts

Mornings are tough. Snooze buttons are tempting, and missing shoes seem to vanish right when you need to leave. But arriving at school on time is one of the simplest, most effective ways for students to set themselves up for a successful day.

Arriving at school before 9.00am gives students a chance to settle in and connect with friends. It lets their brain transition smoothly into learning mode. Arriving after 9.00am on the other hand, usually means missing vital announcements at the start of the lesson, feeling instantly rushed, and inadvertently distracting your teacher and classmates.

Punctuality is more than just avoiding lunchtime detention - it is a vital life skill. Building a reliable morning routine teaches time management, reduces daily stress, and demonstrates respect for your peers and teachers.

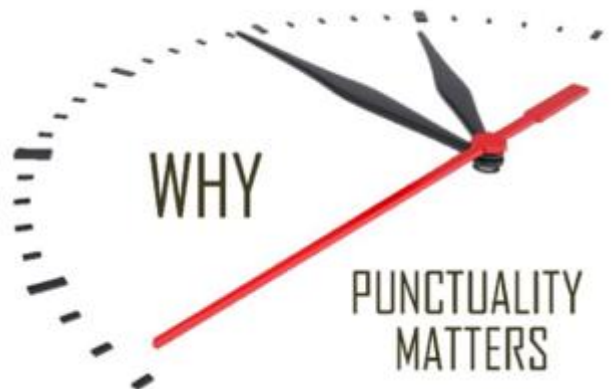
Small adjustments tonight lead to a smoother morning tomorrow:

Prep early: Pack your bag and lay out your clothes the night before.

Add a buffer: Aim to arrive 10 minutes early to handle unexpected delays like traffic or lost keys.

Set a routine: Keep a consistent bedtime and morning schedule.

Over these last 3 weeks there has been a remarkable shift in the number of students being late to Period 1. Prior to the change in gate procedures, we were having up to 10% of students being marked at late to Period 1. Last week we were averaging just under 4% being late to Period 1, a fantastic shift!



Moa Jazz Combo Recording

Follow this link to watch the Moa Jazz Combo performing the jazz standard "On the Sunny Side of the Street".

<https://youtu.be/QUZRux3lqsw>

This was recorded a few weeks ago in the Music Department recording studio.

Subscribe to the [Music Department Youtube Channel](#) while you're there so you don't miss the other videos that will be releasing over the next few weeks.

Featuring Ashton Silveira, Theo Jackson, James Gallagher, Minh Phan, and Harry Baker.



KBB Music Festival Results

Well done to the Chamber Orchestra, Concert Band, and Big Band for performing at the KBB Music Festival. Chamber Orchestra and Concert Band both received Bronze Awards and the Big Band received a Silver (with a score of 84, only 1 point off Gold!). Congratulations to all students involved.



Assessment and Exam Integrity

Academic integrity is a core value at Lynfield, and we would appreciate your help to reinforce its importance with your child.

What You Should Know About Our Assessment Practices

Our school takes student authenticity seriously. This is not only important for earning credits honestly, but it also ensures that qualifications truly reflect what your student has learned. The New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) requires us to verify that all student work is genuine and completed by the student themselves.

How We Verify Authentic Work

Throughout the year, students receive clear guidelines about assessment expectations through our Student Assessment Guides, which are shared and explained during our Hui mai sessions at the start of the year. Subject teachers also

reinforce assessment rules for each assessment. For internal assessments, subject teachers carefully monitor student progress by:

- Having students complete work on teacher-created documents (usually in Google Classroom)
- Setting regular checkpoints to track development
- Reviewing the history of student work to ensure authenticity
- Requiring consistent class attendance

This monitoring process helps us support your child while maintaining academic integrity.

Exam Rules: What Your Student Needs to Know

In Term 3 Weeks 8 and 9, most Year 11-13 students will sit derived grade exams. NZQA has specific rules that students must follow:

Students are NOT permitted to:

- Communicate with other students or people during the exam
- Have mobile phones or devices on their person (all devices must be switched off)
- No watches
- No earbuds or headphones (unless required for a listening exam)
- Bring notes or handouts into the exam room
- Open tabs outside the exam site during digital exams
- Use tools like Grammarly during digital exams

How You Can Help

We ask that you support your child by:

- Reminding them about assessment and exam procedures
- Encouraging them to attend all classes and meet checkpoint deadlines
- Discussing the importance of honest, independent work
- Ensuring they understand that following these rules helps them succeed

Here is the [Final Exam Timetable](#) If your child has discovered a clash at this stage, they should contact Mr Waddington, Academic Advisor urgently. nwaddington@lynfield.school.nz

Auckland Transport Buses

After conversations with Auckland Transport about improving bus usage for Lynfield College, we are aiming to increase the tag ON and tag OFF buses. Why? Auckland Transport is lacking data about how many people are using the routes, and they need to know what is *really* happening.

Tag on and tag off all of this September so we can prove that we need more routes and more frequent buses for our school. Be the change! Tag on AND tag off!



Sport Scene

TEAM TALK

NZ SECONDARY SCHOOLS WINTER TOURNAMENT WEEK

The winter sports season wrapped up with the NZSS Winter Tournament Week (31 August - 4 September). This year 5 Lynfield teams competed in various tournaments, playing schools from all over NZ.

The experience for the players is far greater than just the time actually playing the games. It is a unique and invaluable opportunity for many of our best sportspeople to be part of the intensity of high-level competition, day in, day out for a week and also to share the highs, lows and fun with other like-minded players and school mates. There were several Y9 and Y10 students in our teams, whose experience will set their teams up well for the future.

Every one of our players represented our school with pride and determination to give their best 100% of the time they were on the field/court/turf. Every one of our teams learned so much - about their skill sets, game play and themselves.

Special thanks to all the coaches and managers involved, whose dedication enabled our students to attend this tournament. Huge appreciation also to the supporters who travelled to watch and support from the sidelines.

Lynfield tournament results were:

Premier 1 Netball - 21st in "Upper North Island Secondary Schools" B grade (53rd out of 128 schools competing in total)

1st XI Girls Football - 20th in "Grant Jarvis" tournament (24 teams competed in Hamilton)

1st XI Boys Football - 20th in "Rex Dawkins" tournament (24 teams competed in West Auckland)

1st XI Girls Hockey - 15th in "Mary Clinton" tournament (18 teams competed in East Auckland)

1st XIII Rugby League Boys - 18th in the National Secondary Schools Boys Championship



The Lynfield Netball UNISS team would like to thank the following fundraising sponsors:

OZ Caravans Ltd (Premier 1 Netball team sponsor)

Raffle Sponsors: Maungakiekie Golf Club, Woolworths Lynfield, Hatwork Outlet Store, Avondale, Bay Auto Service Centre, Floriculture, Blockhouse Bay, Fade O'Clock, Blockhouse Bay, Caltex Blockhouse Bay

NZSS WEIGHTLIFTING INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Llewellyn Butcher (Y11) competed in the NZSS Weightlifting Championships on 6th September, held at Kolmar Sports Complex in Papatoetoe. This is Llewellyn's second year competing in this event, last year winning gold in the Under 15 <110kg Category. This year however, Llewellyn was competing in the Over 15 > 110kg+ category which is a massive step up in competition. To say he stepped up his levels would be an understatement.

At this event, Llewellyn lifted 96kg in the Snatch and a whopping 115 kg in the Clean and Jerk, totalling for 211kg. This was a PB of 35kg! The 211kg total was enough for Llewellyn to secure the Bronze medal in his category and was only 5kg behind the Silver.

Congratulations on your outstanding performance and improvement Llewellyn!



UNIFORM RETURN

With all winter sports now finished for the year please return all sports uniforms to the Sports Office by the end of this term. As per the permission slips approved at the beginning of the season, any damaged or lost uniform will need to be replaced, requiring a Uniform Replacement Fee to be paid.

FESTIVAL AWARDS EVENING

Our annual Sport, Arts and Culture prizegiving will be held on Tuesday 20th October at 6.30pm in the College Hall. Further details about the evening will follow.



AFS Gallipoli Youth Award 2027



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

3-WEEK EXCHANGE BETWEEN
NEW ZEALAND & TÜRKİYE
FOR THREE NZ STUDENTS
APRIL 2027



APPLY BY 11 OCT
afs.org.nz/gallipoli

Applicants must be NZ citizens or residents, enrolled in yr 11, 12 or 13 in 2027 and descendants of a servicemember involved in the WWI Gallipoli campaign. Full details available at www.afs.org.nz/gallipoli



Spring Festival!

celebrating
Auckland's
community
gardens

**Saturday
10th October
10:30am-1:30pm**

Communities Feeding Communities
1207 Dominion Rd Puketapu
Mt Roskill, Auckland



**Gardens, Workshops, Kai, Crafts,
Kids Activities, Music, Prizes, and more!**

